

DÚN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL

HOUSING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE HYBRID MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 27th March 2024, at 5pm

Venue: Council Chamber / Microsoft Teams

Report by Chairperson, Councillor Peter O'Brien

Present: Councillor Kazi Ahmed, Councillor Anne Colgan, Councillor Maurice Dockrell, Councillor Jim Gildea, Councillor Tom Kivlehan, Councillor Hugh Lewis, Councillor Frank McNamara, Councillor Justin Moylan, Councillor Peter O'Brien, Councillor Denis O'Callaghan, Councillor Oisín O'Connor, Councillor Dave Quinn.

Sectoral Representatives present: Mr. Sean O'Neill, Mr. David Girvan, Mr. Mel Reynolds.

Officials present: Catherine Keenan (Director of Housing), Deirdre Baber (Senior Executive Officer), Jim Ryan (Senior Executive Officer), Maura Hickey (Acting Senior Executive Officer), Gerard O'Sullivan (Senior Engineer), Aingeal McMahon (Senior Staff Officer) and Sinead Magee (Staff Officer).

Apologies received: Mr. David Geary.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

Minutes of the Housing Strategic Policy Committee meeting held on 13th December 2023:

Proposed by Councillor J. Gildea and Seconded by Councillor T. Kivlehan.

The minutes of the Housing SPC meeting held on 13th December 2023 were **ADOPTED** and **APPROVED**.

2. Matters arising from the Minutes:

It was **NOTED** that there was no business under this heading.

3. Information submitted by Members for written reply:

It was **NOTED** that there was no business under this heading.

4. Director's Business:

a) The Land Development Agency (LDA)

Mr. Phelim O'Neill, Head of Property, LDA, gave a presentation during which he discussed the following:

- Current status of the LDA including its capital capacity, Project Tosaigh, staffing levels and capacity/delivery on state lands
- LDA/Local Authority Partnerships
- Update on Shanganagh Castle
- LDA site acquisitions
- Overview of LDA's Cost Rental including:
 - what cost rental is
 - the target audience
 - the current process
 - current LDA Schemes

A discussion followed during which Mr. Phelim O'Neill, Mr. John White, Head of Delivery and Construction, LDA, and Ms. Catherine Keenan, Director of Housing, responded to Members' questions.

b) Traveller Accommodation Programme

Mr. Jim Ryan, Senior Executive Officer, gave a presentation with an update on the new Traveller Accommodation Programme 2025 – 2029. In his presentation, Mr. Ryan discussed the following:

- What the Traveller Accommodation Programme (TAP) is
- The process for preparing a new TAP
- Timelines for TAP 2025 – 2029
- TAP 2019 – 2024

A discussion followed during which Mr. Ryan responded to Members' questions.

It was **AGREED** that a member of the Construction Team would attend a Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) meeting in relation to Part 8s.

5. Business referred from the Council:

It was **NOTED** that there was no business under this heading.

6. Matters referred from the Corporate Policy Group:

It was **NOTED** that there was no business under this heading.

7. Correspondence:

It was **NOTED** that there was no business under this heading.

8. Items for Consideration for the Future Work Programme:

8.01. Councillor Anne Colgan

"Presentation on Room for a Student Local Authority Tenancies Scheme and a discussion on its current and proposed application in DLR."

8.02. Councillor Kazi Ahmed

“This committee discuss the importance of housing for struggling working and young families as most houses in DLR County are not affordable. Taking that and the homeless crisis into consideration, the committee come up with ideas for the importance of increasing affordable housing up to 15% in Dun Laoghaire County Council so that young generation & struggling working families can have homeownership within affordability and can avoid the risk of homelessness. ”

These items were not considered for the Future Work Programme as all items fall after this final meeting of this Committee. It was **AGREED** that these items can be re-submitted for a meeting of the next Housing Strategic Policy Committee.

9. Current Work Programme:

a) Financial Contribution Scheme

Ms. Deirdre Baber, Senior Executive Officer gave a presentation on the draft Financial Contribution Scheme outlining the details of the Scheme. A draft copy of this Scheme was circulated to Members in advance of the meeting.

In her presentation, Ms. Baber discussed:

- Rightsizing and assisting applicants to do this
- Downsizing and what it means
- The criteria of the Scheme and the process for the homeowner and the Council

A discussion followed during which Ms. Baber and Ms. Keenan responded to Members' questions.

It was **AGREED** that this item be included under Director's Business at the first meeting of the new Housing Strategic Policy Committee.

b) Update from the Housing & Disability Steering Group

An update report was circulated to Members in advance of the meeting which outlined the following:

- Housing allocations – 18% of all allocations made from 1st January to 1st March 2024 were to disabled people
- Update on the construction and delivery of homes
- Information update relating to the work of the Steering Group

10. Any Other Business:

Catherine Keenan, Director of Housing, advised the Group of the upcoming International Social Housing Conference (ISHC). The ISHC takes place in Dublin's Conference Centre from 4th – 6th June 2025.

The Chair thanked everyone for their contribution and the beneficial work done throughout the term of this Committee.

Conclusion of Meeting:

The meeting concluded at 7.07pm.

The Social Housing SPC is a Relevant Body as defined by Section 5(6) of the Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015 and is in compliance with the Transparency Code prepared by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in accordance with Section 5(7) of the Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015.